stroke, clinicians should continue to try to prevent all transient as well as permanent ischemic events.

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References

Bilateral Cerebral Embolization in Patients With Carotid Stenosis

To the Editor:
We congratulate Dietrich et al1 for their observation that labeled platelets distribute to both cerebral hemispheres after experimental unilateral carotid thrombosis. This may be relevant to patients with carotid stenosis. We have found, using transcranial Doppler ultrasound with a 2-MHz transducer,2 bilateral emboli signals in the middle cerebral arteries of 14 of 34 patients with unilateral carotid artery disease. In 8 of these cases, an additional central embolic source was identified; the source of emboli in the remaining cases remained unclear. Dietrich et al hypothesize that platelet emboli may cross over to the contralateral hemisphere through the anterior communicating artery. According to our current understanding, collateral flow would be directed toward the hemisphere distal to the stenosed internal carotid and not vice versa. The observation of Dietrich et al, along with our clinical results, suggests that collateral flow between the cerebral hemispheres is more common than currently assumed.

The ability of the brain vasculature to eliminate embolic material, which has been clearly demonstrated in this article, could account for the lack of neurological complications despite high emboli counts, in particular in patients with prosthetic heart valves. It would be interesting to evaluate the size of the platelet emboli and examine the influence of embolus size on the transit time of emboli through the brain capillaries.

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References

Correction
In “Evaluation Times for Patients With In-Hospital Strokes” by Alberts et al (Stroke. 1993;24:1817-1822), the last column of Table 6 contains an error: the total indicated for the Duke population should read 45, not 47. The corrected table appears below.

Table 6. Data for Specific Time Intervals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locale</th>
<th>≤90</th>
<th>91-180</th>
<th>181-360</th>
<th>361-720</th>
<th>&gt;720</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duke</td>
<td>9 (14)</td>
<td>11 (17)</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
<td>7 (11)</td>
<td>14 (22)</td>
<td>45 (71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>9 (14)</td>
<td>6 (10)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (2)</td>
<td>2 (3)</td>
<td>18 (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18 (29)*</td>
<td>17 (27)</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
<td>8 (13)</td>
<td>16 (25)</td>
<td>63 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All times are in minutes. Numbers in parentheses are percentages.

*Numbers do not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

TABLE 6. DATA FOR SPECIFIC TIME INTERVALS
Bilateral cerebral embolization in patients with carotid stenosis.
D Georgiadis, D G Grosset and K R Lees

Stroke. 1994;25:717
doi: 10.1161/01.STR.25.3.717

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